



# FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

## Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor

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**Welcome to Friday Night Facts !** It is hard to believe that a year has passed since Christina Mauntel joined our staff as a VISTA member. When she first came to the office, she was quiet, serious, and a hard worker. Over the last 12 months, we have delighted in discovering Christina's sense of humor, her creativity and yes....still her strong work ethic. Not one task that she as asked to do was completed in a haphazard manner. Christina took great pride in a job well done and all of us at OFBCI appreciated her strong work ethic. Our greatest pleasure is knowing Christina will continue to serve her community and country as a member of the Peace Corps. She is the kind of American that anyone around the world would be proud to know. We wish her nothing but good luck in her studies, her travel and her service. We will miss you Christina!

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### WANTED: TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VISTAS

Through a collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is seeking eight (8) VISTA associates to provide one year of support to strengthen Indiana's faith-based and community organizations as they work to address needs and solve problems, beginning September 1, 2006.

Two (2) VISTA training associates will assist in developing and implementing a training and technical assistance curriculum for faith-based and grassroots community-based organizations and provide technical assistance support as needed. Two (2) VISTA associates will develop two new volunteer centers in communities outside of Marion County. Four (4) VISTA associates will provide one-on-one technical assistance to faith-based organizations in leadership development, organizational development, program development or fund development.

For more information on becoming a VISTA associate and about this opportunity, visit the Corporation for National and Community Service website, <https://recruit.cns.gov/index.asp>. For more information about the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, visit our website, [www.ofbci.in.gov](http://www.ofbci.in.gov).

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### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



Many Indiana AmeriCorps programs are currently seeking applications from individuals interested in serving their communities to meet a variety of critical needs. Please visit <https://recruit.cns.gov/> to search the range of available opportunities throughout Indiana.



## Good Luck Christina



Today is Christina's last day in the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. She would like to share her story with you. Christina is a remarkable young lady and we wish her the best of luck!

*After completing my bachelor's degree in May 2005 from Indiana State University, I was looking for an opportunity to do something "a bit different" than a standard 9-5 job. A family member, who had served with AmeriCorps, told me about its programs and the opportunities AmeriCorps can provide. I applied to AmeriCorps in July 2005 and began serving with the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in August 2005.*

*As an AmeriCorps VISTA, I was tasked with the responsibility of increasing the capacity of Citizen Corps Councils in Indiana. Over the course of the last year, I worked closely with Citizen Corps Councils to meet the needs of Hoosiers all over the state. Just some of the activities in which I worked with Citizen Corps were securing funding for additional Citizen Corps activities, assisted in developing program guidelines, and facilitating statewide meetings. While Citizen Corps was my main focus, I also was provided with many opportunities to work on additional projects including assisting with Hurricane Katrina relief, developing an AmeriCorps newsletter, and assisting with website redesign.*

*After my time ends at the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, I will immediately attend graduate school. As a result of my time in AmeriCorps, I have discovered the passion for service. I also was recently nominated to serve in the Peace Corps in Non-Governmental Development and my service will begin sometime in 2008. Whether serving in my state or halfway around the world, AmeriCorps has provided me with the opportunity to discover what I love to do and given me the tools to help change the world one opportunity at a time.*

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## Say "Mickey"



The Volunteer Centers in the state of Indiana were well represented at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service held in Seattle, WA, June 18-20. The conference sponsors included the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Pictured are Minnie Mouse - co-volunteer director Disney Land; Mary Sullivan, Director of Metro United Way Volunteer Connection; Kathy Bonaventura, Director of Volunteer Center of United Way of Porter County; Karla Close, Volunteer Connection; Angie Kolman, Director of Volunteer Center of United Way of Central Indiana; Linda Kors, Director of the Volunteer Center of St. Joseph County; Vicky Bateman, Director of the Volunteer Center of the United Way of Bartholomew County; and Mickey Mouse, co-volunteer coordinator Disney Land.

### Aging Appreciation Award



Diane George has been an advocate for the aging community of Gary for decades. Diane is the executive director of the Onyx Center, a program that assists the aging, abused women and children along with the homeless. Diane was born in Cumo, Mississippi, but is a lifelong resident of Gary as her family relocated due to her father's employment with U.S. Steel.

Mrs. George excelled at Roosevelt High School and was a member of the Honor Society. Diane earned her Associate Degree from Calumet College and her Bachelor's Degree in psychology and social work. Diane earned her degree while taking care of her daughter and her husband, Charles. She is the oldest of eight siblings and the first of her family to graduate from college.

Diane has had many career paths. She has worked as a consultant for the Division of Aging to assess the long term care needs of those that required care. For 14 years, she worked in the Department of Redevelopment for the City of Gary, relocating displaced homeless and aging citizens. Diane was presented with her award by Director Steve Smith, from FSSA's Division of Aging.

### Youth Service Day Lead Agency Funding

Being a Lead Agency is an opportunity to connect your organization with an international youth service movement while increasing your program participation. Past Lead Agencies have been successful in garnering national media attention, developing new partnerships, and engaging elected and public officials in their service and service-learning projects. Lead Agencies receive a \$2,000 National & Global Youth Service Day Planning Grant sponsored by State Farm Companies Foundation and direct assistance and support from Youth Service America to ensure a successful National & Global Youth Service Day. To learn more about the Lead Agency program and the application, please email Cassandra Miller at [cmiller@ysa.org](mailto:cmiller@ysa.org).

### Eligibility for WIC Program Increased

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is valuable to recipients in providing assistance with food, nutrition counseling, and access to health services. Among the many healthy and nutritious products WIC vouchers can buy is infant formula. The formula alone could cost up to \$100 per month!

On July 1, 2006, due to the increased cost of living, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has increased the income eligibility level for pregnant women and families with children less than 5 years old on the WIC program. The new level is up to \$591 per week for a family of three and \$712 weekly for a family of four. This increased assistance will allow families to use their limited earnings for other necessities such as home heating. You can view the Federal Register notice at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/howtoapply/IEG2006FRnotice.txt>.

#### Source:

Food Research and Action Center, [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)

*"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else"*

Booker T. Washington

### ***Faith in Community Ministry for Choices, Inc.***

In Indianapolis, a new collaborative effort brings together the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) of the United Methodist Church, the South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, and Choices, Inc., a private non-profit with a history of serving at-risk populations in Marion County (Indianapolis). The GBGM provides approximately half of the salary and annual maintenance (housing, utilities, etc.) for a full time Church and Community Ministry worker, who essentially is a domestic missionary. The local community provides the other half of the salary and maintenance. Currently, Mary Z. Longstreth, a South Indiana Conference diaconal minister, is the director of ***Faith in Community Ministry*** for Choices, Inc., the parent organization for Faith in Community Ministry. Says Longstreth, "We provide a way for congregations — folks in the pews — to minister more comfortably and easily to people who have been incarcerated. Commonly people fear those in prison. Although some need to be in prison for a lifetime, 97 percent of those incarcerated return to our communities as neighbors. We need to understand how to relate to them, instead of shunning them or pushing them aside, saying 'not in my neighborhood!'"

***Faith in Community Ministry*** dovetails with the Indiana Department of Correction's new reentry programming entitled PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve). Inmates who take part in our ministry are volunteers who have completed programming offered through one of the PLUS units. PLUS is a 16 month transition program in which inmates choose to learn from either character-based or faith-based materials. PLUS inmates are housed together and learn core fundamental values that focus on strengthening spiritual, moral, and character development as well as the developing of life skills. Faith in Community Ministry is divided into three phases: relationship building, community re-entry, and reintegration and reconciliation.

**Relationship building:** Six to 12 months before an inmate is released, he or she can volunteer to partner with a faith care team. These care teams are comprised of six to eight individuals from one congregation in the community, who are committed to developing a supportive, caring relationship with an incarcerated person who will be returning to their community. Trained care team members regularly visit and correspond with the incarcerated neighbor and help him/her prepare for release. Prior to release, the care team and neighbor develop a covenant agreement of expectations and commitment to activities necessary for successful reintegration. The care team provides practical, emotional, and spiritual support throughout the transition to community life.

The inmate must be recommended by a Department of Correction chaplain or reentry coordinator and interviewed by Faith in Community Ministry staff before being matched with a trained faith care team. The team then works to build a relationship with the inmate and the inmate's family through regular correspondence and visits.

**Community reentry:** At this point, the inmate is referred to as "neighbor." During this 30-day period, the new neighbor calls a faith care team member every day and visits face-to-face with a member at least once each week. The team carefully attends to their neighbor's immediate needs, including housing and employment, and helps him or her secure identification, medical care and counseling services.

**Reintegration and Reconciliation:** The Reintegration and Reconciliation phase lasts a minimum of one year post release. During this time, monthly meetings with the full care team and weekly visits and calls with individual care team members help the neighbor stay focused on goals and objectives. The care team also provides monthly progress reports to the Faith in Community Ministry staff.

For more information about sponsoring a faith-care team, contact Mary Z. Longstreth at 317-205-8255 or by email at [mzlongstreth@choicesteam.org](mailto:mzlongstreth@choicesteam.org)



### **Training Opportunity for School-Based Mentoring Programs**

YouthFriends, a nationally recognized leader in school-based mentoring, and MentorMAP, the navigation system for school-based mentoring, are pleased to present the National Training Institute for School-Based Mentoring. The institutes are designed for a small group of participants in order to maximize true in-depth training. The curriculum is designed around the MentorMAP Operations Manual which, along with a generic recruitment video, are included in the cost of registration for each participant. Please contact them directly for group rate information (3 or more from one organization).

If you are looking for comprehensive tools and training in establishing or managing a school-based mentoring program, this may be for you! An invitation and registration form can be found at <http://mentormap.org/>